

These students are shining examples of the best and brightest in Texas and America. They deserve a Lone Star size applause. Congratulations. We are proud of you.

COMMEMORATING THE INTRODUCTION OF "MEDAL OF HONOR"

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the upcoming introduction of the book, "Medal of Honor," at the National Boy Scout Museum in Irving, Texas. The book honors the more than 3,400 Medal of Honor recipients that have served our Nation so valiantly in time of war or crisis and will be introduced on November 8, 2003. Mr. Speaker, this event is being coordinated by the North Trail District of the Boy Scouts of America under the direction of Chairman Gary V. Hill and Mr. Rob Kyker, the Friends of Scouting Chairman and host of this event.

Mr. Speaker, during the introduction of the book, seven (7) of the living 138 Medal of Honor recipients will be presented and honored along with Mr. Michael E. Thornton, U.S. Navy—retired, who is the spokesman for all Medal of Honor recipients. These individuals embody the virtues of sacrifice, courage, and leadership, which the Boy Scouts work to instill. Since 1861, the Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded to our Nation's bravest Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. This book, by Mr. Peter Collier, honors them for their courage, character, and leadership and will serve as a wonderful example to future generations, especially the Boy Scouts of the future.

The introduction of this book, affords a new generation the opportunity to once again learn of the leadership and courage of those service men and women who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. This presentation at the Boy Scout National Museum is a great moment to honor and remember all the Medal of Honor recipients and I count it an honor to be involved and to be present at this wonderful ceremony.

AMENDING TITLE XXI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 20, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for passage of H.R. 3288, but do so with disappointment that the House did not take up S. 1547, thereby failing to expedite the process of ensuring that New Mexico does not lose their unused SCHIP funds.

My New Mexico delegation colleagues in the other chamber were able to secure passage of S. 1547 on July 31, 2003 by unanimous consent. This legislation allows states, including New Mexico, to keep unused allotments under the SCHIP Program.

Prior to recessing for the August District Work Period, we in the House passed H.R.

2854—what was supposed to be a final compromise covering \$2.7 billion in SCHIP funds, about half of which technically expired September 30, 2002, and the rest of which was scheduled to expire September 30, 2003. Without this action, the funds would have reverted back to the Federal treasury, consequently depriving New Mexico and other states of sorely needed health care funds.

However, because of a technical error in H.R. 2854 that excluded New Mexico from retaining their SCHIP funds, S. 1547 was passed to ensure that New Mexico was rightfully included. Now, with passage of this legislation today, New Mexico and other states will again be required to wait for their much-needed SCHIP funds since this bill will now have to be referred back to the Senate, passed once again, and then sent to the President for his signature.

While I by no means seek to diminish the importance of the other states now included under H.R. 3822 for a similar fix that was required for New Mexico, I am nevertheless disappointed that S. 1547 could not be passed as a lean technical fix to expedite New Mexico's funds. New Mexico is ranked second in the Nation for uninsured individuals, which makes the SCHIP program that much more important so that children can have health coverage.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3288, but do so in the hope that this legislation can be expeditiously passed in the other chamber. The sooner we can get this legislation into law, the sooner the funding can go to its intended purpose—providing health insurance coverage for the children in our respective states.

FIVE TRUE HEROES IN AMERICAN LIFE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, if we were to believe the television and radio and even the newspapers, we would think that the most important figures in America are professional athletes, movie stars, rock performers, and financial tycoons.

But we all know that this is not true. There are millions of Americans who do heroic work every day. Some are teachers, some nurses, some work in day care. Some prepare meals for the elderly; others take care of their elderly parents or of spouses or children who are ill or disabled. Men and women all over America go off to work each day, sometimes at two or even three jobs, to make sure that there is food on the table for their families, and money to send their children to college.

Today, I want to recognize five citizens of Vermont who are heroes: Mary Jean Inglee, Emma Katherine Ely, Bev Priest, Theresa Emmons, and Christina Crawford. They come from every corner of Vermont, and each has been tireless in advocating for the needs of the low-income citizens of our state.

Mary Jean Inglee was born in Whitehall, New York and raised in an Irish Catholic Democratic family. She graduated from Whitehall High School, Class of 1968, and married Harold Inglee in November of that same year.

She and her husband now live in Rutland; they have two daughters and three granddaughters.

Mary Jean Inglee's interest in low-income issues started when she was a child, when a poor family lived in a shack on the rocky area above her house. To Mary Jean's own family, it was a natural thing to share what they had with that family. Her parents provided them with rides to doctors and food and clothing whenever they could.

Mary Jean at times got in trouble at school because she believed it was her duty to advocate for classmates that were being treated unfairly. She remembers those classmates as the kids who experienced the cruel realities of poverty.

Mary Jean worked in the public school system for 10 years in a special education classroom. She had a first-hand look at how state systems worked—and how they didn't work for kids that had the least going for them. Once again some saw her as a troublemaker, for she took advocacy for families who needed extra consideration, very seriously. She says this kind of work brought her to know BROCC (the community action agency in southern Vermont), which was a worksite for some of the students she worked with. Going there on a weekly basis, she was able to observe the difficult situation facing clients and workers.

Mary Jean has worked for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for the past 15 years, an agency charged with removing barriers to employment for people with disabilities. Most of the people she works with have no income or the minimal benefits of Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability payments. This translates into poverty. She advocates every day for programs, training, and dollars to help people improve their lives.

A new opportunity to help came in 1992 when she was asked to join the BROCC Board of Directors as a low-income representative. The timing was perfect for Mary Jean to be called into service. Her husband was ill and not able to work. This gave her an instant "reminder course" in what it was like to owe rent and wonder how it would be paid. In their 35 years together, they have been there a few times, but unlike many of the people BROCC serves, there was usually someone in the family who could help out.

Mary Jean has worked tirelessly for others, but she has also pursued a path of learning for herself. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services from Springfield College in 2002. She is currently a Masters Candidate and expects to receive her Masters in Human Services with a concentration in Community Psychology in the spring of 2004.

Emma Katherine Ely is another outstanding advocate for low-income people. During the past 15 years (and probably longer than that!) Ms. Ely has served the low-income community of northeastern Vermont. While being a parent in the program—she is the mother of ten children—Ms. Ely served on the Champlain Valley OEO Head Start Policy Council. That interest in parent advocacy led to seats on the New England Regional Head Start Board and also on the Vermont State Head Start Parents Association. For the past 10 years, Ms. Ely has played a central role organizing the Vermont Early Childhood Conference. In addition to this work, Ms. Ely has been active in many roles